

Jack Green: This is oral history number 418. The following oral history interview is conducted by Jack A. Green [ph?] and Commander James Antonellis [ph?] of the Naval Historical Center, for both the Naval Historical Center and for the National Park Service USS Arizona Memorial at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu on December 6, 2001 at 5:20 pm. The person being interviewed is Homer L. Ostergaard who was a seaman first class on the USS Nevada on December 7, 1941. First question is, for the record, please state your full name, place of birth, and birth date.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Homer L. Ostergaard. I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska and you're-- and today's date?

Jack Green: The date you were born.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Twenty-eighth of January, 1922.

Jack Green: Okay. What did you consider your hometown in 1941.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Morgan, Minnesota.

Jack Green: What were your parents' names?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: My dad was Harold and my mother was Henrietta.

Jack Green: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I had a twin brother, I had a- I'll say how they were. My twin brother was in the Navy or got in the Navy. My brother Lyle was in aviation. And my brother Richard joined the Navy when he was old enough. And I have one sister.

Jack Green: Okay. Where did you go to high school?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I didn't.

Jack Green: Oh, okay.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I took mine in the- in the- in the Army I got a--

Jack Green: Oh, so you had previous Army service?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No, no after.

Jack Green: Oh afterwards.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I- I'm too young then. I'm only eight- 19 years old.

Jack Green: Okay. So you did not graduate from high school?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No. I took the service one after.

Jack Green: Okay. All right. Okay. Where and why did you enlist in the Navy?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Because we had a snowstorm- a great snowstorm in Minnesota on Armistice Day in 1940 and I helped enough neighbors there. I was a farm boy and I got- after a couple of weeks of that I says to my dad, I says, "Take me to Mankato, Minnesota," I says, I wanna join the Navy. I've shipped- I've scooped enough snow around here." And I- I made it.

Jack Green: Okay. Now where did you go to boot camp?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Great Lakes, Illinois.

Jack Green: Okay. And what time- what date did you enlist in?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: The- I enlisted the 6th of December 19- or 6th of-- let's get this straight now. Yes, the 6th of December I enlisted in 1940.

Jack Green: Okay in 1940

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: In 1941 I was a year old and one day when Pearl Harbor started.

Jack Green: So you'd been in the Navy for <inaudible>. Okay. Now you went to boot camp at Great Lakes. And where did you go after Great Lakes, after boot camp?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Then we were- we went to Barberton, Washington to- to the USS Nevada, it was in dry dock at the time.

Jack Green: Okay, so you immediately were assigned to Nevada from boot camp. Where did you- what was your division on board the Nevada?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I- when I first went aboard it was a third deck division.

Jack Green: Okay. And what were your principle duties?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, there you're just a seaman, you're <inaudible> any place else. And then you have to go on JP for three months of- for your- and I lasted about six weeks and I was always in helping the baker or the cooks after doing my work in the spud locker. And they asked me if I was interested in cooking and I said yes. 'Cause I said my mother never chased me out of the house. And uh.--

Jack Green: So you were hoping to strike for a cooking--

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: And- and I was in the sink for maybe a week and pretty soon here comes another one so I'm out of there 'cause that's the first place you go as a cook here, to the sink till. somebody relieves you. And he was from Minnesota the boy that relieved me so--

Jack Green: So you were there striking for the cooks rank, okay. Now how long had the Nevada been- had you been onboard the Nevada, been in Pearl Harbor when the attack took place?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Hmm, I think we were in there in August from time we left Barberton till we <inaudible>.

Jack Green: So you had been- been roughly four months that the Nevada has been in Pearl Harbor. And you've been on her for the full four months.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Right.

Jack Green: Now, on December 6, the day before, did you have duty on the Saturday before the attack or did you have liberty?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No, I'd had duty because I was on the next morning. I was- oh, the cook posted duty after 1 o'clock, you know, seeing that you split- you always got a date and a _____.

Jack Green: So you'd come out and watch on- at 0100 on the 7th of December, that day, so you were working, you were-- What specifically were you doing when the attack started?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: That's when I- that's when I was off with another one to dump that garbage on over side.

Jack Green: Okay, so basically you were- if had been out- if you'd been out in wash for- roughly six hours--

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Oh yeah, from at least 4 in the morning till--

Jack Green: Four in the morning. Okay, so you've been in the south- so you were topside dumping out garbage over the side of the ship.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Yeah, because there's uhm..- they catch them on the side, they got that bucket and then they take it out to sea and they'll dump them after.

Jack Green: Okay. Now what was your first indication that there was an attack going on? What was the first thing you saw?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: When that Jap plane went by me I didn't- I couldn't believe my eyes. He was that low. He come right by where we were standing, me and this- his name was Anderson helping me on that and he went by and I couldn't believe it. And I swore he put his glasses on his forehead, he was that low.

Jack Green: So was he starboard of the Nevada?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I was on the port side so- and he come by on the port.

Jack Green: Okay, so he's flying from- from forward to aft. In other words he's flying right by you.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: He must have dropped something before he come by us because--

Jack Green: Could you tell whether he was a dive-bomber or a torpedo bomber or just a plane?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: He could have been a dive-bomber but I don't believe it was a dive-bomber because it uhm..- to me it looked like- more like a fighter plane but he would have to have something better than that coming that low to be a fighter plane I would think. Maybe I'm wrong but maybe--

Jack Green: So your first indication the attack is seeing this aircraft come flying right by the portside of the ship. Did you hear a general alarm or--?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Oh yes, I heard general quarters and that's when you- when they say general quarters you drop everything.

Jack Green: Now was this through the 1MC or was it bugle or what was the--?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: It was announced over the loudspeaker.

Jack Green: Oh YMC. So you heard it over the YMC. Okay. Now where was your general quarter stationed?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I'd say I was down four decks in the ammo for small ar- small arms but I went down there, that was a little after eight and I come out of there at 3 o'clock.

Jack Green: Okay, so you got out that afternoon.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Right.

Jack Green: So you spent the entire attack down in the small arms locker?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Just about- I'd say there was five of us down there. And then- then I come up topside and I- there's the-- what the heck do you call them, uh.. hell on- like people unload with the big stuff and they have to have-- oh, anyway but I went by to go upside, I seen one- one laying there all- all--

M: Stretchers?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Pardon?

M: On stretchers?

Jack Green: You mean casualties.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No, no not on stretchers, laying on a thing that you can- you can move things like you see you're- you're loading down in it <inaudible> ship. I'll fix of that word--

Jack Green: Conveyer?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Conveyor that's what it was. Right, right. And here's laying one, you know, and he just about pure red. And they stopped to say and he said, "No, there's guys more hurt than I am." And then I got the heck upside--

Jack Green: He was wounded, he was wounded.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Yeah, he'd been- from- from something down in that area.

Jack Green: So you're down in the- in the small arms and what were you and your other fellows doing?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Just waiting to load something up but I suppose you can't fire some of them things that- you know, because, you know, when- like they weren't this 14-inch projectors that's for sure.

Jack Green: So was this a anti-aircraft?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I suppose it was but it- and they didn't get that much off neither, you know.

Jack Green: So you were basically just standing by for orders to pass ammunition but that never happens.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No, here we was sitting there that whole time down there with just-- you could hear <inaudible>.

Jack Green: Okay, was there anything coming over the 1MC? Any kind of instructions or things?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No.

Jack Green: There was just silence. You were just there.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: And you wonder what you're doing, you know why- what's going on.

Jack Green: So what- what caused you to come topside at 3 o'clock?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, that's when they must have called us down and said we could- we could come up.

Jack Green: So 1MC tells you to come topside?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Right.

Jack Green: And you were telling us, you came topside, you saw wounded- badly wounded men on the conveyer.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: On the way up yes.

Jack Green: On the way up. Okay.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Then I saw outside and the first thing I see is all that burning out there, and them planes crashed laying around and them ships burning and- and uh..- then by that time that's when that Old D says to me, "Help carry the- the dead out and the--" So we loaded them and took them over and come back and took one more. I know I had put two loads but then after that I think I went over to help cook on the others. So- well not till later that night, after that other deal. 'Cause then we went off there, we had to eat, we had to stay someplace so us cooks went in to help, but we stayed right there in the- in the galley there and uh.. laid on some flour sacks and some sugar sacks for- that was our bunk.

Jack Green: So when the Nevada does her sortie you are below so that when 3 o'clock, when you come up she's already beached at Hospital Point. Okay.

So you're basically after helping move the dead to the whaleboats you go back to the galley and start cooking for the crew.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, we were still on until- like I say we were there that night but uh.. we- I had to help on them bodies, you know, and they come back to the ship. God knows what I was doing after 'cause they're- if you're a body they're gonna get you to be helping on something.

Jack Green: Okay, so you're just doing duty.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Then when them planes come in in the evening well then we got our next- we- the- the marines were there and they give us- handed us an M-1 and just said, get out in the cane fields. They think it's an invasion, you know. And we said, "What do we do?" He said- marine sergeant says, "You'll hear me if I tell you to fire your weapons," you know, so--

Jack Green: Now was the marine sergeant from the Nevada's marine _____.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Yes, yes.

Jack Green: So what time do you leave the ship with your small arms, your landing force material, to go into the cane fields? What time is that?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, it was- it had to be almost dark when it- that's as much, you know, as I can remember.

Jack Green: Okay, so it- it's about dark and you're- you're ordered to- it's a company with a marine attachment, you go in the cane fields. Now this is the ones that are right- that are on the other side of the channel from Ford Island?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Right.

Jack Green: The ship has already been moved from the other side to be there. So when it's dark you are in the cane fields, how long do you spend in the cane fields?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Oh, I'd say about an hour and then they- then they must have realized or they- we knew by that time that that was our own planes but--

Jack Green: So you are there when our aircraft from the Enterprise arrive. Did you shoot? Did you--?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Somebody did some shooting because I'm pretty sure there was two of them downed out of the three.

Jack Green: Yes, we saw the- but you yourself did not shoot?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No, no.

Jack Green: You were just sitting there.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Just ready. They thought it was an invasion, well <inaudible> you can, we should have had that that morning when- for them planes, you know, but we didn't.

Jack Green: Okay. Now, so you spent about an hour in the sugar cane field. Then what did they do after that? What happened?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: That I think is when we went back and we- we started _____ everybody to be sure to get something to eat because we hadn't eat since breakfast you know. And it's time to do something and that's when us cooks went in to help cook over there then.

Jack Green: Okay, now where did- where did the cooks go to cook?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: It was that main uh..- main one, they only had one that I know of in the--

M: Ford Island?

Jack Green: At Ford Island or at- was that at Ford Island that you--

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Oh, it wasn't very far from where the all the ships were so it had to be in some place there but I know it was the main one 'cause they have an awful- it was awful big and we had a lot of storage in there. Like I say we slept on them flour sacks and sugar sacks.

Jack Green: It sounds like Ford Island.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I think so.

Jack Green: Probably sound like Ford Island. So from that point on you basically cooked for the survivors and other personnel in the area. How long did you do that?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, I think I lasted two days or three because then in come in the USS Lexington and I was transferred over there. <Inaudible> cooks on there. I had three for sure that I knew <inaudible> come with. And that was the last of Pearl Harbor for me because we took off and then uh.. went out and made a raid down in uh..- way down below and come back and then they put some more bunks and _____ because when I went aboard at first I slept on the deck right under one of the bakers and the day we sunk- got sunk, he said to me, "Now I know why you were a little excited on there." He says, "This isn't fun is it?" And I'd bump him, you know, when they'd drop a depth charge out there. But when we got sunk- the day uh.. we did get sunk and I go through two and never had a scratch on either one.

Jack Green: So you survive the sinking of the Lexington at the Battle of Coral Sea. And so what does the Navy do with you then?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Then a little- we got picked up on there and we went back to uh..- on a cattle barge ship and went to San Diego. And then I got assigned to the USS _____ that was a transport in Philadelphia. And there we carried like 6000 troops on that thing. And I tell you _____ converted. And when uh.. I went to Philadelphia I was on that for two years

and then I got new construction for a tin can and they asked me uh..- I was in North Fork, Virginia, and they said they got three places for you so I took San Pedro, California, because my dad had some relation there and I figured well I'd go over there and get a Sunday dinner sometime, you know, which I did. And uh.. I was on that till- let's see, I was in uh..- I'd say in '44 sometime. Maybe July, in that time. Went aboard that, you know. And then uh.. when I got- when we got done in uh.. '44 then I went to the USS Tills, that was a just- TE, tin can.

Jack Green: A DE yes.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: DE yes.

Jack Green: What class? _____ class or <inaudible>?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: It was one of the better ones. And that was a 748 and uh.. I made chief on there. Four years in the Navy and I made chief. Well, you got- you got rushed in, somebody had to do it. And by golly uh..--

Jack Green: So you were chief cook?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Yes. And when I got- when I had- I had an old timer on there and we was in one of them typhoons out there and tin cans they really bounce around, the little destroyers, and he stepped right in a dishpan of water. Was taking potato water out and- and then I had to take over. And then they were kind of laughing, the officers on there, they says, by God the chief can still cook. And he- I says, you don't forget that, you know. So I did that for that guy for- and he was an old timer. I mean he was a garbage man or something in Boston and he got drafted and then come in, you know. But he did his job and- but uh..- and then my final, well I seen the Nevada one more time after that. We pulled into uh.. Okinawa when they were just about done over there, them torpedo- or them suicide planes were coming in there and all that stuff, you know. Here sat the Nevada, hit again out there with a mask up there, went by it, I couldn't believe it. You know, here I says, that son of a gun just won't sink will it. And it didn't.

Jack Green: No it didn't.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No, they had to put it down with our own- with the atomic bomb that they didn't get it down of, you know, <inaudible> Pearl Harbor here or some place.

Jack Green: Yes, she was scuttled. She was scuttled off of Hawaii.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: But I did get- I got on that DE, the Tills, me and the supply officer had to go ashore and then uh.. when we got ashore we stepped on the- the dock where the Nagasaki <inaudible> and I got to walk with him over there and we went to another tin can and when I seen what we- destruction that we had did, 'cause I was always bitter at the Japs the way- and that calmed me down. I said, now we- we've got revenge for what they did. It was one steel rod sitting out there, I'd say eight feet tall, that was about all that was in there. That thing was flat.

Jack Green: So the Tills was at Okinawa. What other battles was the Tills <inaudible>?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, we were patrolling, we were six- six days with a- with a flat top, them baby flat tops. We were doing that. And I hit one of them typhoons out there for- took us four days we didn't- we ate a sandwich if we could get it or- or okay, you never-- and we had the eye <inaudible>-- we had three guys when we pulled out they'd be heaving over the side and none of them were upset when that one come. They didn't know we were gonna--

Jack Green: Would that have been the great typhoon of December 1944?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Something yeah, yeah.

Jack Green: Yes, the great- they call it the Holiday Time Typhoon.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Oh, that was a rough one. Four days of that.

Jack Green: So at the end of the war you're on the USS Tills and you're at Nagasaki, Japan. Do you stay in the Navy or do you get out?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I- we- when we left here we went to Guam and I was in Guam the night they declared was over. And the case- quarter master, he says to the skipper, he says, "Can we take seven cases of beer over, we have to give two to NCO club to- for the chief's quarters." And he said, "Okay." So- and I think we drank two beers and come back to ship, we were so damn glad it was over with.

Jack Green: So you were at Guam when the war ends.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Yes. And then I got back to San Pedro, California and I got- uh.. hopped a plan as far as Chicago I got, then I took the 400 into Mankato, Minnesota and got my leave. And- and then I went back and- and went to uh..- in Florida on uh..- we- we decommissioned the Tills down in- in--

Jack Green: At Green Cove Springs.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Yup, Green Cove Springs, Florida and I got- I stayed up and I got discharged the 7th, or no the 14th of February '47.

Jack Green: So you were actually commissioning and decommissioning crew on the USS Tills.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, they didn't quite have her done. Well I went over to another one that uh..- and was on there for about a month and then because more or less we wasn't- I was on that but you were decommissioning other ships there, you were doing stuff wasn't even in your- heck, what did I know about _____ soldering or welding on them things, you know. But uh..--

Jack Green: So you decomm the Tills at Green Cove Springs, get out of the service. And what- briefly just what did you do in civilian life after that?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I done a little plumbing, <inaudible> hardware man there and then I went over cut the meat on a locker plant and then they kept calling my mother, the Army did, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and they says- she says, if you want him so bad, she said, you can call the locker plant in Springfield, Minnesota. So they did, you know, and I come up and

they offered me. I got an E uh.. 5 on a- a sergeant rank and I went to Fort _____, Illinois. And there was a cook school there and being chief, you know, and I stayed there for two years as a- as a instructor. And who do I meet but two from the- one guy keeps looking at me and that sergeant was with me at that naval air station, he said, "That chief know you over there, he keeps looking over here." And I says, I said, "Well, his last name is Hanson," I said, "and we called him Feenie [ph?] on- in the meat locker on <inaudible>. And- and he comes over as soon as we had break at 10 o'clock and he's over there and he says, "I know you but I don't know you." I says, "Well Feenie, I know who you are." And he- then he couldn't get over that nickname he knew. And then I told him who I was, he couldn't believe it.

Jack Green: So how long did you stay in the Army?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I stayed for- I went in in '48 and I got out in- I went to Korea with the engineers and uh.. come back home. Well, I got married before I went to Korea, married a- she was a WAC and- and uh... And I stayed in there till pretty near seven years. And I got out in September. And I stopped at my uncles place at a farm right off of _____, Minnesota and uh.. my twin brother was working- he'd been out of the Navy and he had worked his hardware store up there, he had a Super One in there and he- this major comes over from the National Guard and he says- he talking to him and he says- my twin brother says to him, he says that damn twin brother of mine he said, he got out of the service, he says, 13 years service. And he says, "Well, tell him to come over to- and see me." He says we got an opening the first of November. And I went over, took a test and I took that- got that job the first of November and I worked 22 years there. When I was 55 years old I said this is enough. And I had 35 years service with the guards and all that. And I retired and when I got 60 I drew one and I had one retirement, you know, and the other one.

Jack Green: What was your highest grade when you retired from the National Guard?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: E8. I was first sergeant. I- I was first 7- E7 when I got out of the Navy and retired with that and I'm very- very happy and satisfied. My wife and I we celebrated our 51st in August, so I think I did all right. And when I got married, the guys were all whispering, they said, "She's knocked up, they'll have to--" And we never had no children.

Jack Green: Very interesting, very good. Jim, would you like to ask some questions.

James Antonellis: Yes. When the Nevada got underway, can you recall how many engines stirred up, the vibration? Could you hear anything?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: You could feel them backing. And then you'd always- you could feel like they were speeding up just a little bit more as you were in the-

Jack Green: So you knew you were moving.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Oh yeah, yeah, you could tell that. And then all at once kind of like a jab, you know, and that's when she must have went into the <inaudible>.

Jack Green: So you knew when she went aground too, you could feel that.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Yes, yes.

James Antonellis: When the Arizona blew up did you hear that?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I don't know but there was something awful- just like we- well, we knew we got hit a couple times too, you know, because them big wenchies up in the front, one of them stood like this where a bomb had went down, you know. And that's a lot of steel sticking straight up like that one. That was on the Nevada. But we had- that chief ward officer we had on there, King, he was- he's in the record book but there was a <inaudible>.

James Antonellis: So you knew him?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Oh I- by face and all that but he- he could talk to a- like me, a seaman first, just as well as anybody else but he knew his work, he knew his job. And- but a guy like that saves a lot of ships too.

James Antonellis: Did you know _____ Thomson [ph?]?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I wouldn't- I- the one that was on the duty at the thing. I- I know him by face but I- I never- the name though I wouldn't uh...--

Jack Green: You didn't know him at the time?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: No, no.

James Antonellis: So you knew you were on your way, you could feel the guns fire, the vibration of the ship, you could hear the engines. But for the most part you were still somewhat <inaudible>.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Yes. You know, you don't- what were you doing <inaudible>. Right.

Jack Green: Now how was life like for you as a sailor at Pearl Harbor? Did you go down to Hotel Street? Did you--?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, I passed <inaudible>.

Jack Green: That's the one okay. Did the banner have a favorite bar. I understand many _____ had their own bar that they would- they sailors would go.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I- I- oh I did like a beer you know, but uh..- and the other I never cared. I- I couldn't take booze. I'd make- I'd heave right away. And uh..- but I know, my twin brother I met him once over here and we went ashore, you know, and then uh.. had a couple but uh.. I didn't get that far. Pearl City was enough 'cause when we come back we picked up eight extra- well about 20 extra each tin can did or bring them back to the- to Pearl Harbor here, you know, and we had ten chiefs extra in our- we never closed the chiefs quarter on that Tills, on the DE I was on, 'cause they would play cards at 6- all- 24 hours a day somebody was playing. And this one chief he was eating them damn onions and he _____ - he runs around in his

sleep but says what the heck, what's the matter, he says "I'm killing my mother-in-law."

<crew talk>

Jack Green: Well, I think that's pretty much what I have. Jim anything else?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: But I wanted to tell you one thing. I got to see Butch O'Hara knock down five of them Jap planes that day.

Jack Green: On the Lexington.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: We were standing up on topside and all they had was the firing guns, that was- that was the only work they had on it. We're standing up there waving our white hats as he'd shoot one and he knocked down five of them that day and one day come down on a suicide _____ and we'd had to move 40 pound bombs on there and they cut that way off in that- then he hit the ground. And there was a baker sitting with me first class, he said, "Homer, let's get on the end here," he says because if we ever get sunk, he says we wanna be able to get to the water, you know. But when I did abandon ship on the Lex, you know, you go down them ropes and there's somebody with their feet on your head you know. I got down I was wondering why they were burning so much and here <inaudible> down there. But uh.. my best friend, one of my cooks that was with me, same age and all that, he was on a raft and he went around to sink the Lex, torpedo it, and here was a raft with 20 guys hanging onto the ropes. And if they had tin canned or made that they'd have lost them 20 because nobody really _____ - you know, that was a break, that was-- But George and I we were on three ships together and- yeah, he was from Minnesota, he was an orphan, you know, and- and uh..- but I- we corresponded after we got out of the service and everything. Like you meet a lot of good people. They can say what they want.

Jack Green: How long were you in the water after you left the Lexington?

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Well, I swam for a little bit and I finally got over on the Minneapolis. And then like a dummy at 10:30 at night they <inaudible> on tin cans and this one cook was out- belonged to them so he talked me into getting up in that basket and go across at night, 10:30 at

night, and like a dummy I did it, you know. That's- that's a thrill. I don't know why I did it but I did it.

Jack Green: Okay, well thank you very much Mr. Ostergaard.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: I- I had a lot of good times.

Jack Green: Sounds like it. We really appreciate- thank you for coming in and interviewing with us.

Homer Lawrence Ostergaard: Thank you.

Jack Green: Thank you.

End of Tape 481 Homer Lawrence Ostergaard